



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal
Data System

Better Data • Informed Choices • Improved Results

Substantive Changes to
the

MLDS Data Inventory

September 2020

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Overview

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) is Maryland's central repository for comprehensive data from all levels of education and into the State's workforce. The MLDS Governing Board is required to create an inventory of individual student and workforce data proposed to be maintained in the system (Md. Ed. Art. §24-704(g)(6)). Additionally, the data inventory serves to inform the public about the contents of the MLDS database. This document provides a comprehensive summary of data elements proposed to be maintained, or removed from the System.

Process

The development of the Data Inventory is a collaborative process between Labor, MSDE and MHEC, and the MLDS Data Governance Advisory Board. The MLDS Data Governance Advisory Board annually reviews the Data Inventory and identifies what data elements to propose for inclusion or remove from the System. All data must be relevant to answering one of the questions in the [Research Agenda](#) or generally identified as necessary for evaluating federal or State supported education programs. Data elements identified for inclusion or removal in the System are presented to the Governing Board for approval. Once approved, the requirements are developed with the agency and included in the data collection calendar.

Accessing the Data Inventory

As of December 2016, the MLDS Data Inventory is available online through the MLDS Center [website](#). This change allows the inventory to be more dynamic, by presenting the inventory in a way that may be organized according to the user's needs.

Changes to the Data Inventory

As a result of publishing the Data Inventory in a dynamic format, this document will only include substantive changes for each of the domains. Substantive changes are inclusions or removals of data elements in the Data Inventory.

Administrative changes are made annually and include the following:

- Clarification to the database in which the data element is maintained (i.e. ODS or MDM)
- Corrections and consistency in the CEDS Global ID for the Data Element
- Consistency in reporting the Element Name

Student Data

State law (Education Article §24-701, Annotated Code of Maryland) defines student data to mean data relating to student performance. The law also lists specific data elements not considered student data. As of the 2019 legislative session, House Bill 704 authorizes the Center to include discipline data and juvenile delinquency records. By removing the restriction on these specific data elements, student data now includes:

- State and national assessments;
- Course-taking and completion;

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- Grade point average;
- Remediation;
- Retention;
- Degree, diploma, or credential attainment;
- Enrollment;
- Demographic data;
- Juvenile delinquency records; and
- Elementary and secondary school disciplinary records.

The law continues to prohibit the Center from collecting data on students from criminal and Child In Need of Assistance records and medical and health records.

Workforce Data

State law (Education Article §24-701, Annotated Code of Maryland) defines workforce data as data relating to:

- Employment status;
- Wage information;
- Geographic location of employment; and
- Employer information.

Understanding the Fields in the Data Inventory

Approval Status – identifies the Governing Board approval status for the Domain, Entity, or Element.

- **Approved** – The element had been approved for inclusion in the MLDS by the MLDS Governing Board.
- **Proposed** – The element has been proposed for inclusion and is pending review by the MLDS Governing Board for collection by the MLDS Center.
- **Temporary** – The external data element has been approved for inclusion in the MLDS by the MLDS Governing Board. Temporary data will be listed as “Temporary – until mm-dd-yyyy”.

Agency – The entity that provided the data element to the MLDS. Agencies are only those who share data that are used for Center output including research, reporting, and data requests. Current agencies providing data include: the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Maryland Department of Labor (Labor), and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

Approval Date – date that the Governing Board approved the inclusion of the Data Element to be maintained in the System.

Availability – the earliest date that the Date Element is available to the MLDS.

CEDS Global ID – is the Common Education Data Standards unique identifier for the data element. Data elements in the MLDS database are mapped to the [Common Education Data Standards](#) (CEDS Version 7.1) when possible. CEDS represents a national, collaborative effort to develop voluntary, common data standards across the P-20W pipeline and provides nationally recognized naming conventions and definitions. Where data cannot be mapped to CEDS 7.1 standards, alternate domain, entity, and element names are provided, if applicable.

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Database – an indication of the location of the data element within the MLDS. Data elements are either in the Operational Data Store (ODS) or the Master Data Management (MDM) database. The MDM database contains confidential and sensitive information on student and workers and is restricted to specified authorized staff of the MLDS Center. The ODS contains sensitive, de-identified information on students and workers and is restricted to authorized staff of the MLDS Center.

Description – a description of the Data Element that provides additional information related to how the data element is collected, used, or defined in the System.

Domain/Sector – Domains indicate the sectors that are part of the MLDS. The Data Inventory contains domains/sectors related to the MLDS partner agencies and other external entities that provide student and workforce data directly to the MLDS through a memorandum of understanding. MLDS partners include: Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Maryland Department of Labor (Labor), and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). The Data Inventory also contains publicly available data or data provided through a memorandum of understanding with an external entity. Data from external sources, such as the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and U.S. Census Bureau, are used to enhance the data received from internal sources, and provide additional context to the data in the System.

Domains/sectors include:

- Workforce,
- Postsecondary,
- K12,
- Early Learning,
- Juvenile Delinquency,
- Adult Education, and
- External Data.

Element Name – describes the given name for a data element provided to the MLDS. This may be the name used by the partner agency, or a standard name used by CEDS. Note: The same element name may appear multiple times, as the MLDS receives the same data element from multiple sources.

Entity – Entities represent persons, places, events, objects or concepts about which the data is collected or shared. The Entities in the MLDS Data Inventory are:

- Address
- AE Student
- Assessments
- Authentication and Authorization
- EL Child
- EL Organization
- EL Staff
- Financial Aid
- Institutional Characteristics
- K12 Class/Section
- K12 Course
- K12 Organizations
- K12 School
- K12 Staff
- K12 Student
- LEA
- NA
- PS Institution
- PS Student
- Quarterly Employment
- Tuition
- W Employer
- W Person

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Data Usage – provides an indication of the status of the data element within the MLDS. The data element is either available for use in research or only used by internal IT staff for identity resolution.

Source – indicates the origin of the data for the specific Domain/Sector. This may be the name of the data collection administered by the agency or the table name. The source is specific to the agency providing the data to the MLDS.

K-12

K-12 domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Proposed Sources - None

There are no proposed K-12 data elements at this time.

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of K-12 data elements at this time.

Workforce

Workforce domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Department of Labor (Labor).

Proposed Sources - None

There are no proposed workforce data elements at this time.

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of workforce data elements at this time.

Postsecondary

Postsecondary domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

Proposed Sources

Student Registration System and Course Information System

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) collects data on the courses completed by undergraduate students at Maryland's public institutions of higher education. Course data is transmitted to the MLDS through two separate collections, but the data should be treated as a single collection. The Student Registration System (SRS) provides unit record data on student-specific course attempts, and the corresponding outcomes of those attempts. Attempts are only reported for students who remain registered in courses beyond an institution's add/drop period. The Course Information System (CIS) supplements the SRS by providing additional course details related to instructor attributes and course modality.

Maryland Approved Program Completer System

The MHEC added three new data fields to the 2020 Maryland Approved Program Completer System (MAPCS) data collection¹. First Name and Last Name were added to aid in the identification of students. The Capstone Location Code captures the county (if in Maryland) or state (if outside of Maryland) where

¹ MAPCS collects data on students who complete Maryland Approved Professional Education programs at Maryland's colleges and universities.

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the student completed their state required pedagogy assessment (edTPA, PPAT, PLT) and/or final internship to fulfill requirements for the MAPCS program code being reported.

CEDS Global ID	Sector	Element Name	Approval Status	Availability	Source	Database
000727	Postsecondary	Collection Term	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000726	Postsecondary	Collection Year	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000203	Postsecondary	OPEID (FICE + 2)	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Sub-Campus Code	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Course Subject	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
001314	Postsecondary	Course Number	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
001315	Postsecondary	Section Number	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Course Session	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000736	Postsecondary	Full-time or Part-time Status Instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000346	Postsecondary	Date of Initial Employment of instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Principal Occupational Assignment of Instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000739	Postsecondary	Academic Tenure Status of Instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000002	Postsecondary	Highest Degree Attained by Instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Appointment Status of Instructor	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Remedial Math	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Remedial English	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Remedial Reading	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
001161	Postsecondary	Instruction Type	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
001310	Postsecondary	Instructional Location	Proposed	2015	CIS	ODS
000727	Postsecondary	Collection Term	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
000726	Postsecondary	Collection Year	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
000203	Postsecondary	OPEID (FICE + 2)	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Sub-Campus Code	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
001071	Postsecondary	Identification Number (SSN)	Proposed	2015	SRS	MDM
001075	Postsecondary	Identification Number Type	Proposed	2015	SRS	MDM
001071	Postsecondary	Local Campus Student ID	Proposed	2015	SRS	MDM
001071	Postsecondary	State Assigned Student Identifier	Proposed	2015	SRS	MDM
NA	Postsecondary	Course Subject	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
001314	Postsecondary	Course Number	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
001315	Postsecondary	Course Session	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Section Number	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS

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NA	Postsecondary	Course Hours	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Course Hours Type Flag	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Entry-Level Credit Bearing Math	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
NA	Postsecondary	Entry-Level Credit Bearing English	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
001299	Postsecondary	Course Outcome	Proposed	2015	SRS	ODS
000172	Postsecondary	Last Name	Proposed	2020	MAPCS	MDM
000115	Postsecondary	First Name	Proposed	2020	MAPCS	MDM
NA	Postsecondary	Capstone Location	Proposed	2020	MAPCS	ODS

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of postsecondary data elements at this time.

Early Learning

Early Learning domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Proposed Sources - None

There are not proposed early learning data elements at this time.

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of early learning data elements at this time.

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

Proposed Sources

Juvenile Delinquency Records

House Bill 704 – Student Data and Governing Board was passed in the 2019 legislative session and removes the restriction against including juvenile delinquency records as “student data” in the MLDS. The Department of Juvenile Services captures administrative data on youth who are involved in the

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juvenile justice system in Maryland. The data elements for inclusion in the Data Inventory are listed below.

CEDS Global ID	Sector	Element Name	Approval Status	Availability	Source	Database
000121	Juvenile Delinquency	Generational Suffix	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Region of Residence	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Region of Jurisdiction	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
000190	Juvenile Delinquency	County of Jurisdiction	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Complaint ID	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Alleged Offense Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Alleged Offense Category	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Alleged Offense Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Arrest Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Complaint Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Complaint Source Type	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Complaint Source Agency	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Intake Decision Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Intake Decision Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Petition ID	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Adjudication Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Adjudicated Offense Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Adjudicated Offense Category	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Adjudication Finding Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Adjudication Decision Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS

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NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Disposition Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Disposition Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Disposition Category	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder ID	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder Type	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder Open Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder Close Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder Status	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Supervision Folder Close Reason Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Case ID	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Admission Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Release Date	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Organization ID	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Name	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	MDM
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Type Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Subtype Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Admission Reason Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS
NA	Juvenile Delinquency	Placement Release Reason Code	Proposed	2008	Juvenile Delinquency Records	ODS

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of juvenile delinquency data elements at this time.

Adult Education

Adult Education domain data is provided to the MLDS from the Department of Labor (Labor).

Proposed Sources

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship data comes from the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) in the Department of Labor. Over 40 Apprenticeship data elements were approved at the June 2020 Governing Board Meeting. MLDS Center staff became aware of three additional elements DWDAL could provide. The data elements for inclusion in the Data Inventory are below.

CEDS Global ID	Sector	Element Name	Approval Status	Availability	Source	Database
000191	Adult Education	Sponsor Name	Proposed	2008	Apprenticeship	ODS
NA	Adult Education	Type of Sponsor	Proposed	2008	Apprenticeship	ODS
001076	Adult Education	Employer ID	Proposed	2008	Apprenticeship	ODS

Correctional Education

Staff from the Department of Labor's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning contacted the MLDS Center about providing correctional education data for grant and reporting needs. The nine data elements for inclusion in the Data Inventory are detailed in the table below.

CEDS Global ID	Sector	Element Name	Approval Status	Availability	Source	Database
NA	Adult Education	Race/Ethnicity	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	ODS
000033	Adult Education	Date of Birth	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	MDM
000115	Adult Education	First Name	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	MDM
000255	Adult Education	Gender	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	ODS
000172	Adult Education	Last Name	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	MDM
000184	Adult Education	Middle Name	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	MDM
001075	Adult Education	Social Security Number (SSN)	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	MDM
000021	Adult Education	Test Component Name (Subject/Module)	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	ODS
001021	Adult Education	Certificate/GED Date	Proposed	2008	Correctional Education	ODS

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of adult education data elements at this time.

External Data

External data is acquired by the MLDS from:

- U.S. Census Bureau (Census); and
- Maryland Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

This data is used to authenticate the identity of a person and is used internally by MLDS staff.

As of June 2020, external data from an individual or entity requesting the inclusion and use of external data for a report or research project is allowed as a permanent or temporary source of data. In these cases, external data are defined as follows:

- External data means data that are not part of the Center data and are being provided for a unique study or program evaluation. External data are student or worker unit record data as defined by Education Article § 24-701(f) and (g), Annotated Code of Maryland.
- External data does not include aggregate (non-individual) level data that are used in conjunction with Center data (i.e. IPEDS data or school climate reports are not external data).

Proposed Sources - None

There are not proposed external data elements at this time.

Proposed Removals - None

There are no removals of external data elements at this time.

Supporting Information For more information on the MLDS Center please visit the MLDS Center website at mldscenter.maryland.gov.

For additional information on CEDS 7.1 Data Standards visit ceds.ed.gov.

[CEDS 101](#) describes what the CEDS standard is, why it is needed, and the parts of the CEDS standard.

Contributors and Change History

Date	Description/Reason for change	Authors/Contributors	Version
07/25/2012	Initial Draft	John Bruns	1.0
09/1/2012	Revision of content, addition of tables	John Bruns, Rob London	1.0

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Date	Description/Reason for change	Authors/Contributors	Version
10/2/2013	Revision of content, addition of person, organization data elements; mapping to CEDS workforce elements added	John Bruns	2.0
10/29/2013	Added CEDS 4.0 details and data elements planned for the MLDS Master Data Management system	John Bruns	2.0
10/31/2013	Review and update	Chandra Haislet	2.0
11/1/2013	Updates to sections 2.0-5.0	Ross Goldstein	2.1
11/1/2013	Inactive CEDS 4.0 elements removed from Appendix B	John Bruns	2.2
11/15/2013	Active and Approved elements added to Appendix B and C; reserved elements removed	John Bruns	2.3
11/20/2013	Removed Appendices related to elements by policy question and system source; added active and Approved elements; denoted elements not mapped to CEDS 4.0	John Bruns	2.4
11/25/2013	Defined Approved elements as those approved by agencies for submission; removed Approved elements not approved	John Bruns	2.5
12/13/2013	All "Approved" data elements in Version 2.5 marked as active following MLDS Board approval	John Bruns	2.6
1/4/2014	Initial Draft of CEDS Elements	John Bruns (MSDE)	3.1
1/31/2014	Research Request of CEDS Elements	Mike Woolley (UMB)	3.1
2/28/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – K12	Janice Johnson (MSDE)	3.2
2/28/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Workforce	Donni Turner (DLLR)	3.2
2/28/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Postsecondary	Andrew Nichols (MHEC)	3.2
3/13/2014	Approved Items for Inventory	Chandra Haislet (MLDS Center)	3.3
5/28/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Postsecondary	Jon Enriquez (MHEC)	3.4
6/2/2014	Approved Items for Inventory (Data Gab)	Chandra Haislet (MLDS Center)	3.5
6/6/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Early Learning	Phil Koshkin (ECE)	3.6
6/6/2014	Additional Postsecondary Data	Jon Enriquez (MHEC)	3.7
6/9/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Workforce	Donni Turner (DLLR)	3.8
12/8/2014	Availability of Data Alignment – Governing Board Meeting 12/16/2014	Laia Tideman (MLDS Center)	4.0
12/18/2014	Proposed Data Elements Approved by the Governing Board 12/16/2014	Laia Tideman (MLDS Center)	4.1
11/10/15	Inclusion of Data Elements approved in previous versions (MHEC and DLLR) Inclusion of MVA Data Elements for approval by the MLDS Governing Board	Laia Tideman (MLDS Center)	4.2

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Date	Description/Reason for change	Authors/Contributors	Version
12/8/2015	Revisions by MHEC to Postsecondary Data Elements	Parris Jackson	4.3
12/9/2015	Final Revisions prior to presentation at the MLDS Governing Board	Laia Tiderman	4.5
12/15/2015	Final with approval from Governing Board	Laia Tiderman	4.5
10/13/2015	Revisions for Data GAB 10/19/2016	Laia Tiderman	4.7
11/1/2016	Published Data Inventory on MLDS Website Revised document to include substantive changes Included definitions for all fields included in online Data Inventory	Laia Tiderman	5.0
11/21/2016	Changes to proposed workforce sources and elements	Laia Tiderman	5.1
12/2/2016	Updates to <i>Overview</i> , inclusion of <i>Process, Student Data</i> and <i>Workforce Data</i> definitions, updates to <i>Understanding the Fields</i> in the Data Inventory	Laia Tiderman	5.2
5/16/2017	Proposed and Removed data elements for 2017 June Governing Board Meeting	Laia Tiderman	6.0
5/24/2018	Proposed removal of IPEDS Data and Inclusion of Publicly Available Aggregate Data; Annual updates for 2018 June Governing Board Meeting	Laia Tiderman	7.0
6/14/2018	Changes requested during 2018 June Governing Board Meeting	Laia Tiderman	7.5
11/29/2018	Additions to PK12 data in alignment with changes to data collections made by MSDE	Laia Tiderman	8.0
05/21/2019	Additions to Workforce data due to the new Apprenticeship Program data collection from DLLR; Annual updates for 2019 June Governing Board Meeting	Molly Abend	9.0
09/03/2019	Additions to PK12 data from Discipline data and Gifted and Talented Indicator. Workforce additions to LACES.	Molly Abend	9.1
11/22/2019	Census element additions to PK12 data. Postsecondary additions and removals to MAPCS and DIS. Changed CEDS 6.0 to 7.1	Molly Abend	9.2
06/01/2020	Updated field definitions to match website language. Added Early Learning and Adult Education as a domain/sector. Added Juvenile Delinquency as a domain/sector and proposed data element additions to Juvenile Delinquency data.	Molly Abend	10.0

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Date	Description/Reason for change	Authors/Contributors	Version
09/03/2020	Proposed data elements for the 2020 September Governing Board Meeting. Added a "Temporary" field as an Approval Status option. Added External Data as a domain/sector and included more detail to the external data definition.		10.1